AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended): An objective lens for converging light onto an information recording medium, comprising:

a first refracting interface for converging an incident light into a convergent light; and

a refractive index varying member disposed between the first refracting interface and the information recording medium, and having a refractive index that is varied according to an externally applied voltage; and

a second refracting interface disposed between a refractive index varying member and the information recording medium,

wherein the objective lens is a single lens.

2. (original): The objective lens according to claim 1, wherein the refractive index varying member has a plate shape.

3. (original): The objective lens according to claim 1, wherein the refractive index varying member has a plane of incidence perpendicular to an optical axis.

4. (original): The objective lens according to claim 1, wherein a single voltage is applied to the refractive index varying member.

5. (original): The objective lens according to claim 1, wherein the refractive index varying member is a liquid crystal.

6. (original): The objective lens according to claim 1, wherein the refractive index varying member is an electro-optical crystal.

7. (currently amended): An optical pickup device comprising:

a light source for emitting a laser beam;

an objective lens for converging the laser beam onto an information recording medium; and

a light receiving portion for receiving the laser beam reflected from the information recording medium,

wherein the objective lens comprises:

a first refracting interface for converging the laser beam into a convergent light; and

a refractive index varying member disposed between the first refracting interface and the information recording medium, and having a refractive index that is varied according to an externally applied voltage; and

a second refracting interface disposed between a refractive index varying member and the information recording medium,

wherein the objective lens is a single lens.

8. (original): The optical pickup device according to claim 7, wherein the refractive index varying member has a plate shape.

9. (original): The optical pickup device according to claim 7, wherein the refractive index varying member has a plane of incidence perpendicular to an optical axis.

10. (original): The optical pickup device according to claim 7, wherein a single voltage is applied to the refractive index varying member.

11. (original): The optical pickup device according to claim 7, wherein the refractive index varying member is a liquid crystal.

12. (original): The optical pickup device according to claim 7, wherein the refractive index varying member is an electro-optical crystal.

13. (new): The objective lens according to claim 1, wherein the second refracting interface has a curvature.

14. (new): The optical pickup device according to claim 7, wherein the second refracting interface of the objective lens has a curvature.